

Application No. 10/023,410
Response to Office Action

Customer No. 01933

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-20 (Canceled).

21. (New) An electronic book apparatus comprising:

a display;

display control means for causing the display to
simultaneously display a plurality of different book titles

5 corresponding respectively to a plurality of books;

book selecting means for selecting a desired one of the
plurality of books;

receiving means for requesting an external book delivery
system to deliver data electronically to the book apparatus, and
10 for receiving the data from the external book delivery system,
said data including a text of the selected desired book which
includes a plurality of different characters, and images of a
plurality of different readers corresponding to voices for
reading out relevant parts of the book text;

15 display control means for causing the display to display
images of the plurality of characters and the images of the
plurality of readers;

user-operable allocation means for utilizing the displayed
images of the plurality of characters and the displayed images of

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20 the plurality of readers to select a reader to correspond to each
character of the plurality of characters;

display control means for causing the display to display the
received book text and the images of the plurality of characters,
after the selection of the reader for each of the plurality of
25 characters; and

read means for reading out relevant parts of the book text
corresponding to the plurality of characters displayed with the
book text such that a part corresponding to said each character
of the plurality of characters is read out in the voice of the
30 reader selected to correspond to the character.

22. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 21,
wherein the display displays the book text such that a currently-
read-out part of the book text is distinguishable from a
remainder of the displayed book text.

23. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 21,
wherein each of the readers is a famous person or a voice actor
or actress.

24. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 21,
wherein the book text comprises at least one word and a balloon
surrounding the at least one word.

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25. (New) An electronic book apparatus comprising:

a display;

display control means for causing the display to display
images of a plurality of different characters appearing in
5 respective relevant parts of a text of a book, and images of a
plurality of different readers corresponding to voices for
reading out the relevant parts of the book text;

user-operable allocation means for utilizing the displayed
images of the plurality of characters and the displayed images of
10 the plurality of readers to select a reader to correspond to each
character of the plurality of characters;

display control means for causing the display to display the
images of the plurality of characters and the book text, after
the selection of the reader for each of the plurality of
15 characters; and

read means for reading out the relevant parts of the book
text corresponding to the plurality of characters displayed with
the book text such that a part corresponding to said each
character of the plurality of characters is read out in the voice
20 of the reader selected to correspond to the character.

26. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 25,
wherein the display displays the book text such that a currently-

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read-out part of the book text is distinguishable from a remainder of the displayed book text.

27. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 25, wherein each of the readers is a famous person or a voice actor or actress.

28. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 25, wherein the book text comprises at least one word and a balloon surrounding the at least one word.

29. (New) An electronic book apparatus comprising:
a display;

determination means for determining a type of an electronic book to be read as one of a first type and a second type, said
5 first type of electronic book including book data comprising:
book text, an image of at least one character appearing in the
book text, and an image of at least one reader corresponding to a
voice for reading out at least one relevant part of the book text
corresponding to the at least one character, and said second type
10 of electronic book including book data comprising: book text, an
image of at least one narrator, and an image of at least one
reader corresponding to a voice for reading out at least one

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relevant part of the book text corresponding to the at least one narrator;

15 read control means for:

(i) when the electronic book is determined to be of the first type, causing the display to temporarily display the image of the at least one character and the image of the at least one reader, and then displaying and reading out the at least one relevant part of the book text corresponding to the at least one character in the voice of the at least one reader; and

20 (ii) when the electronic book is determined to be of the second type, causing the display to temporarily display the image of the at least one narrator and the image of the at least one reader, and then displaying and reading out the at least one relevant part of the book text corresponding to the at least one narrator in the voice of the at least one reader.

30. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 29, further comprising display control means for causing the display to display the relevant part of the book text such that a currently-read-out part of the book text is distinguishable from a remainder of the displayed book text.

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31. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 29,
wherein said at least one reader is a famous person or a voice
actor or actress.

32. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 29,
wherein the book text of the electronic book of the first type
comprises at least one word and a balloon surrounding the at
least one word.

33. (New) An electronic book apparatus comprising:
a display;

display control means for causing the display to
simultaneously display a plurality of different book titles
5 corresponding respectively to a plurality of books;

book selecting means for selecting a desired one of the
plurality of books;

receiving means for requesting an external book delivery
system to deliver data electronically to the book apparatus, and
10 for receiving the data from the external book delivery system,
said data including a text of the selected desired book, an image
of a character appearing in the text, and a voice that reads out
the text;

storage control means for causing a storage device to store
15 the book text, the image of the character, and the voice;

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reading-out control means for (i) causing the display to display a first predetermined part of the book text and the image of the character, and for reading out the first predetermined part of the book text in the voice stored in the storage device
20 after the book text and the image of the character are displayed, and then (ii) acquiring a second predetermined part of the book text from the storage device, causing the display to display the second predetermined part of the book text, and reading out the second predetermined text part of the book text in the voice
25 stored in the storage device.

34. (New) The electronic book apparatus of claim 33, wherein the book text comprises at least one word and a balloon surrounding the at least one word.